

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02
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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1737
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, CSCE, PFOR, CZ
SUBJECT: DIVIDED FAMILIES

REFS A. STATE 308816, B. PRAGUE 3599, C. PRAGUE 3254

SUMMARY: IN A MEETING WITH MFA'S ZANTOVSKY, I LEARNED THAT GOC
HAD AGREED TO PERMIT EMIGRATION OF THREE CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS ARE
IN US. ZANTOVSKY SAID THAT CASES OF MANY OTHER CHILDREN WILL ALSO
SOON BE RESOLVED, AND THEN DIVIDED FAMILY CASES INCLUDING ADULTS
WILL BE CONSIDERED. WE TOUCHED ON SEVERAL OTHER MATTERS, INCLUDING,
ONCE AGAIN, THE GOLD/CLAIMS IMPASSE. END SUMMARY.

1. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL B, ON DECEMBER 22, I CALLED ON
ING. JAROSLAV ZANTOVSKY, CHIEF OF MFA'S SIXTH DEPARTMENT. ZANTOVSKY
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HAD INVITED ME SPECIFICALLY TO DISCUSS PROBLEM OF CHILDREN IN
CSSR DIVIDED FROM THEIR PARENTS IN UNITED STATES.

2. ZANTOVSKY REFERRED TO THE LIST OF CHILDREN PRESENTED TO
UN IN NOVEMBER, REFTEL C. HE SAID THAT THE PARENTS OF ALL
20 CHILDREN HAD BEEN INVITED TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY IN

WASHINGTON TO COMPLETE EMIGRATION APPLICATION FORMS FOR THEIR CHILDREN. THE PARENTS OF 16 RESPONDED AND THE DOSSIERS WERE ALREADY IN PRAGUE. THREE CASES HAD ALREADY BEEN APPROVED; AS INDICATED BY BUZEK, REFTEL A.: PAVEL KAREZ, EDUARD HOLMAN, AND JAN CSOLTKO. IN ONE CASE, THAT OF VIERA MAKAROVA, THERE WERE SOME PROBLEMS, OF WHICH HE CLAIMED IGNORANCE, BUT HE DID NOT SAY SHE HAD BEEN FINALLY DENIED EMIGRATION PERMISSION. ANOTHER 13 CASES SHOULD BE DECIDED "VERY SOON", WHICH HE DEFINED, WHEN ASKED, AS MEANING BY END OF YEAR OR VERY BEGINNING NEW YEAR.

3. ZANTOVSKY SAID THAT PARENTS OF FOUR CHILDREN HAD NOT RESPONDED TO EMBASSY'S INVITATION: ANDREA AND MARCEL NEMEC, PAVEL SLACH AND RADOMIRA DOSTALOVA. NO DECISION ON THESE CHILDREN COULD THUS BE REACHED AT THIS TIME.

4. I TOLD ZANTOVSKY THAT WE WERE VERY PLEASED AT THIS POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, BUT ASKED IF OUR MANY OTHER CASES OF DIVIDED FAMILIES, INCLUDING ADULTS, WOULD ALSO BE RECEIVING SPECIAL CONSIDERATION. HE REPLIED THAT THE CASES OF CHILDREN HAD BEEN DEALT WITH FIRST, AS THE

MOST PRESSING HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM. AFTER THESE CASES HAD BEEN RESOLVED, OTHERS, INCLUDING THOSE OF ADULTS WILL RECEIVE CONSIDERATION.

WHEN PRESSED FOR DETAILS, HE SAID HE WAS NOT SO FAMILIAR WITH THESE MATTERS, BUT HE THOUGHT THAT CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE WORKING ON THESE CASES DURING THE FIRST PART OF 1977.

5. ZANTOVSKY SAID THAT FACTORS CONSIDERED IN DECIDING THESE DIVIDED FAMILY CASES INCLUDED THE DESIRE TO IMPROVE US-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS, THE WISH TO FULFILL HUMANITARIAN PROVISIONS OF HELSINKI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FINAL ACT, AND THE INTERNAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF CSSR. HE SAID THAT WHEN THE POLITICAL FACTOR HAD BEEN INJECTED INTO CONSIDERATION OF THE CASES, IT WAS FINALLY DECIDED THAT CZECHOSLOVAK LAW COULD PERMIT THE EMIGRATION OF THE CHILDREN. HE STRESSED THAT MFA HAD NOT BROUGHT OFF THIS DECISION ALONE, BUT RATHER ALL OF CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES. HE CONSIDERED THIS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN OUR RELATIONS, (TO WHICH I AGREE) AND FOR THIS REASON WISHED TO INFORM ME PERSONALLY.

6. COMMENT: CANADIAN DCM HERE, IN ABSENCE THEIR AMBASSADOR, AND FRG AMBASSADOR ALSO WERE SUMMONED ON SAME DAY TO MFA AND INFORMED THAT SIX AND 26 CHILDREN, RESPECTIVELY, WILL BE ALLOWED TO JOIN THEIR PARENTS. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO CONFIRM THAT GOC HAS MADE HIGH LEVEL DECISION TO FULFILL AT LEAST THE FAMILY-REUNIFICATION PROVISIONS OF CSCE FINAL ACT, BILATERAL RELATIONS NOT WITHSTANDING. MOST SUCH CASES WERE RESOLVED LONG AGO WITH FRANCE, ITALY, AND AUSTRIA, USUALLY ON THE OCCASION OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS.

7. RADOMIRA DOSTALOVA, MENTIONED BY ZANTOVSKY, WAS NOT ON NOV 9 LIST OF 19 CHILDREN, WHICH EXPLAINS REFERENCE NOW TO 20 CHILDREN. CONOFF LEARNED NEXT DAY THAT HER PARENTS HAD BEEN LIVING IN FRG BUT HAD JUST RECENTLY MOVED TO THE US AND HAD SO NOTIFIED CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES. ALSO LEARNED THAT PARENTS OF NEMEC CHILDREN HAD JUST NOW RESPONDED TO CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY'S SUMMONS. WE WILL ATTEMPT ASCERTAIN CURRENT ADDRESS OF SLACH'S PARENTS AND ADVISE THEM TO CONTACT EMBASSY. CONOFF SPOKE WITH GRANDPARENTS OF THREE CHILDREN WHOSE APPLICATION WAS APPROVED; THEY SURD THEY HAD NOT YET BEEN INFORMED OF DECISION, BUT WILL PHONE US AS SOON AS EMIGRATION PASSPORT RECEIVED, AND WILL BEGIN PREPARING FOR FINAL ISSUANCE US IMMIGRANT VISA. MFA CONSULAR SPOKESMAN ADDITIONALLY SAID THAT VIERA MAKAROVA'S APPLICATION HAD "NOT BEEN APPROVED"; HE WILL ATTEMPT ASCERTAIN REASON FOR DENIAL AND INFORM US. END COMMENT.

8. ZANTOVSKY HAD LITTLE TO SAY ON OTHER SUBJECTS. ASKED ABOUT RUMORS THAT WESTERN PUBLICATIONS WILL SOON RECEIVE WIDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISTRIBUTION HERE, HE INITIALLY CLAIMED IGNORANCE BUT THEN ENGAGED IN DOUBLE TALK. HE REPLIED EVASIVELY WHEN I ASKED WHY FONMIN CHNOUPEK HAD GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO EXPRESS SATISFACTION OVER OUR RECENT TALKS. ZANTOVSKY SAID THE MEETING HAD COVERED MANY ASPECTS, OF LESSER AND GREATER SIGNIFICANCE. SATISFACTORY PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, HE NOTED, ON SEVERAL SMALLER ISSUES, BUT THERE REMAINS THE ONE GREAT ISSUE WHICH CLOUDS OUR RELATIONS, THE "FINANCIAL PROBLEM." WITHOUT THE RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIMS/GOLD IMPASSE, THERE COULD BE NO IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR TERMS OF TRADE WITH US; HE COMPLAINED THAT CSSR SUFFERED SO FAR THIS YEAR A DEFICIT TRADE BALANCE OF 170 MILLION DOLLARS.

9. IN CONCLUDING REMARKS, I EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER RECENT SMALL STEPS FORWARD IN OUR RELATIONS, ALTHOUGH MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE. ZANTOVSKY REPLIED THAT CSSR GAVE RESOLUTION OF FINANCIAL PROBLEMS VERY HIGH PRIORITY, BUT WAS WILLING TO DEAL WITH OTHER MATTERS IN INTERIM. IN WISHING ME A MERRY CHRISTMAS HE ADDED THAT WE MIGHT MAKE ANOTHER SMALL STEP FORWARD BY REDUCING THE 14-DAY ADVANCE NOTICE CZECHOSLOVAK SHIPS MUST GIVE BEFORE CALLING AT US PORTS (WE WILL DEAL FURTHER WITH THIS MATTER IN SEPTTEL).
BYRNE

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